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Budget traffic violations drop 31 percent

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

Traffic ticket violations in Romulus are down 31.5 percent from the 2002-2003 fiscal year, according to figures released Monday night at a special meeting regarding the budget.

Debbie Hoffman, city director of budget and finance, said that fewer traffic violation tickets, as well as fewer commercial viola-

tions were issued in the city.

The drop in the number of citations issued has caused a decline in revenue for both the city and the 34th District Court, which serves the community.

According to Kathleen Trent, director of public relations for Romulus, Hoffman arrived at these figures through an analysis of the previous year as well as the current fiscal year.

"The figure is an average of

the 2002-2003 fiscal year and also the current 2003-2004 fiscal year," said Trent. "The figure for the 2003-2004 year, however, was partially projected, because the current fiscal year does not end until the end of June."

Mayor Alan Lambert said he was not aware of any reduction in traffic tickets written by the city police officers.

"They are not down to my knowledge," said Lambert. "I

would say that we have stayed about the same."

However, Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department said that if the numbers are down it could be the result of two factors.

"First, it could be entirely possible that there are fewer traffic infractions being committed in Romulus," said Leacher. "On top of that, the number of police officers in the city has

dropped by about 13 in the last two years. So it is probably a little bit of both."

Trent also said that at one point there were about a dozen officers out on medical leave. That number is now down to seven, but she said that could have contributed to the decline.

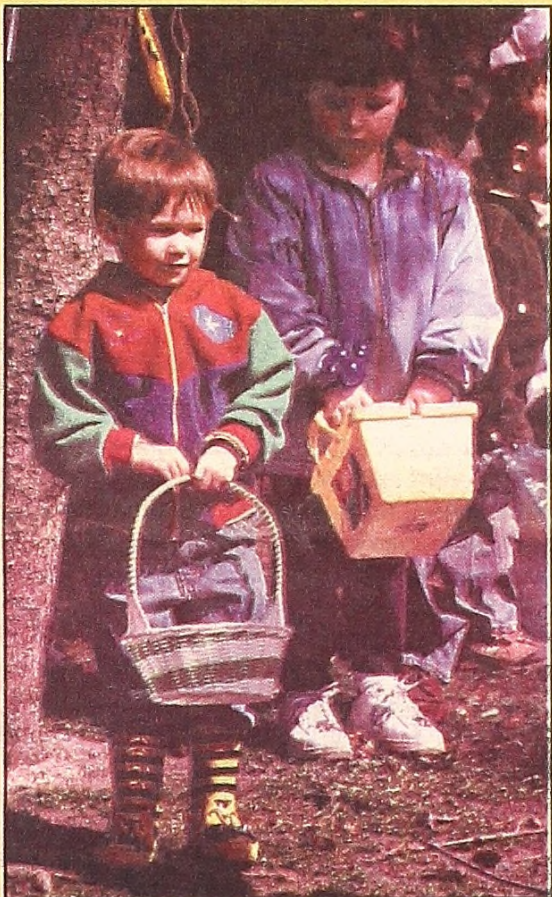
Councilman Bill Wadsworth agreed with Leacher.

See **Violations**, page 3



'Hoppy' day

More than two hundred children and their families participated in the annual Romulus Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the city Department of Parks and Recreation last Saturday at Elmer Johnson Park. Mayor Alan Lambert was on hand to greet the youngsters and help with the festivities. The Easter Bunny was, of course, the guest of honor.



Educators improve parent participation

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

It's a good deal for everybody involved.

The parent/school compact, a contract between Romulus elementary schools and parents is proving an effective way to open the lines of communication, according to school officials.

The Parent Induction Program was implemented in the six schools in September of last year by the School/Community Committee.

"Our goal is to offer parents a forum to ask any questions they may have regarding their children's education and at the same time introduce new parents to the Romulus system," said Phyllis Adkins, Cory Elementary School principal and chairperson of the School/Community Committee. "We are hopeful that this program will increase parent participation in our schools and give parents the opportunity

to be involved.

"The committee has only been in existence for seven years, but we have done a lot in that time period," said Adkins. "Our first endeavor was the parent/school compact and that has been very successful."

The parent/school compact consisted of a deal made between the schools with parents and students. The schools promised to offer a challenging curriculum and a safe environment to students and parents promised to volunteer at least three hours a year at their child's school, to send their children to school prepared and to attend parent/teacher conferences. Students were asked to respect their peers and authority figures within the school and to ask questions all the time, according to Adkins.

"We believe that this is what a community needs to become viable today," said Adkins. "We need to be productive."

The program reaches out to new parents in the community to help them become accustomed to the Romulus schools.

"Many parents are not familiar with our way of doing things in Romulus. Some parents are coming from unstructured communities and we want them to know and understand our system," said Adkins. "We want to come in contact with every one of our students parents."

Each school has a different system. At Cory, the parent coordinator meets individually with new parents as they come into the school. Other schools have monthly meetings for parents, but the goal of the program is the same.

"The idea is to have personal contact with the parents," said Adkins. "We have found that there is less misunderstanding about rules and expectations using this program."

See **Implementation**, page 3

Three companies in race for remaining track license

Ashley Lawrence
Andrea King
Staff Writers

Three companies are currently in the starting gate, racing for the one remaining track license in the State of Michigan.

Magna Entertainment seeks to build a horseracing track in Romulus, developer Sam Danou is planning a track in Van Buren Township and Xanadu World/Tomby Ltd. Hopes to use the license at a new track in Highland Park.

Each of the applicants must meet rigorous standards and criteria to be considered for the license, according to Dominic Perrone, public information officer for the Office of the Racing Commissioner (ORC).

"It is a long process, but one that is important," he said.

The state office will first determine whether there will be an adequate supply of racehorses for live racing on the days requested by the applicant and whether the proposed race meeting will cause harmful competition among tracks and race meet-

ings in the state, Perrone explained.

The ORC will then decide whether proposed tracks will provide reasonable opportunity for proper growth and development of the pari-mutual horse racing and breeding industry in the state. It is also important that the applicant and all persons associated with ownership and management of the track are, "persons of good character, honesty and integrity and possess sufficient financial resources and business ability and experience to conduct the proposed track in a lawful and competent manner," Perrone said.

The applicant must also be able to show that the track grounds and facilities will be properly maintained in accordance with the rules and requirements of the ORC.

Finally there must be community support for the track.

These requirements must be met before any person or company seeking a track license will be considered in the state.

See **License**, page 3

National library week brings fun, activities to Romulus

Ashley Lawrence
Staff Writer

The Romulus Public Library is celebrating National Library Week with a number of activities in an effort to increase library membership and promote reading among all age groups.

"We want to get people excited about reading," said Shelley DeLano, director of the Romulus Public Library. "We especially want to bring the kids in Romulus into the library to introduce them to the fun they

can have by reading."

The fun begins at 6 p.m. on Monday with a magical twist. Magician Jason Hudy will wow the kids with a magic show.

"Magicians are always fun and the kids seem to really like them," said DeLano. "Jason is a great magician and really has a way with the kids."

At 7 p.m. Monday, State Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) will stop by the library to read *Barney Song* by Rhonda Gowler Greene, the Michigan

See **Library**, page 3

Special Angels

Group aids parents of special needs students

Theresa Wherrett
Staff Writer

Theresa Beard knew that there was something wrong with her son the day he was born. As the weeks went on, her fears only worsened.

"He wouldn't make eye contact. If a light went on, he wouldn't look," she remembered. "If there was a loud noise, he wouldn't turn his head."

Beard's son - her firstborn child - was diagnosed at 8-months of age with a severe cognitive impairment. Now 11, he attends school in a self-contained classroom. Her other child, a 6-year-old son, was diagnosed with emotional problems and has been mainstreamed into a kindergarten classroom.

Beard's experiences sent her to a parent advisory group "Special Angels", formed especially for parents with special needs children. The group, which meets once a month at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood

and Family Development Center, is supported by the Wayne-Westland School District.

"There is such a need," Beard said. "Our group gives parents a chance to talk and work out problems."

The Special Angels support group was formed in 1997 when the mother of two autistic boys approached Wayne-Westland Social Worker Sue Wilk, according to group member Renee Rollins. Wilk was able to find a meeting place for the newfound group and secure a small budget. Even with Wilk's assistance, however, the early years were not easy.

"We bounced around a lot," said Rollins. "It was really hard."

Rollins, who has an adult daughter with bipolar disorder and a 17-year-old son with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), called her son "a success story" and credited his middle school principal, Celestine Sanders, with the start of his success.

"He started blossoming in sixth grade," Rollins said. "He was in a self-contained classroom and then he began to be mainstreamed. Now he's a high school senior and on the honor roll. He still receives special education services but takes regular education classes. He does a lot of volunteer work and is going to Spring Arbor College in the fall."

Rollins said she tells her son's story to demonstrate to others that there is "a light at the end of the tunnel."

The Special Angels group is open to all parents and friends of special needs children, including those outside the Wayne-Westland school district. There is no specific age range for the children, although many of the currently participating families have elementary school-age children, said Rollins.

"It's OK for parents of older children to come," Rollins said. "Special education in (Michigan)

public schools runs through age 26." Rollins also noted that other forms of support for parents drop dramatically once the child reaches his/her teenage years.

Much of the discussion at group meetings focuses on information sharing, according to Beard. "We talk about how to get educational services and healthcare services," she said. "We talk about summer camps and speech services."

"We have an ear to listen," added Rollins. "Don't be embarrassed or ashamed. If we can't help, we will find the information for you."

The Special Angels meet from 6:30 - 8 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month throughout the school year. Meetings are at the Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, 34801 Marquette, Westland. Meetings are free and childcare is provided. For more information, call 734-419-2649 or e-mail Rollins at rrollins@comcast.net.

Surplus food distribution dates are set

St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, Westland, will host a surplus food distribution for eligible Westland residents south of

Michigan Avenue on Monday, April 19. Another one will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 22 at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey Road,

Westland, for eligible Westland residents north of Michigan Avenue. Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers must call their building manager for their day of

distribution. April food distribution will include instant potatoes, peaches, pudding and frozen ham. For more information, call 734-595-0366.

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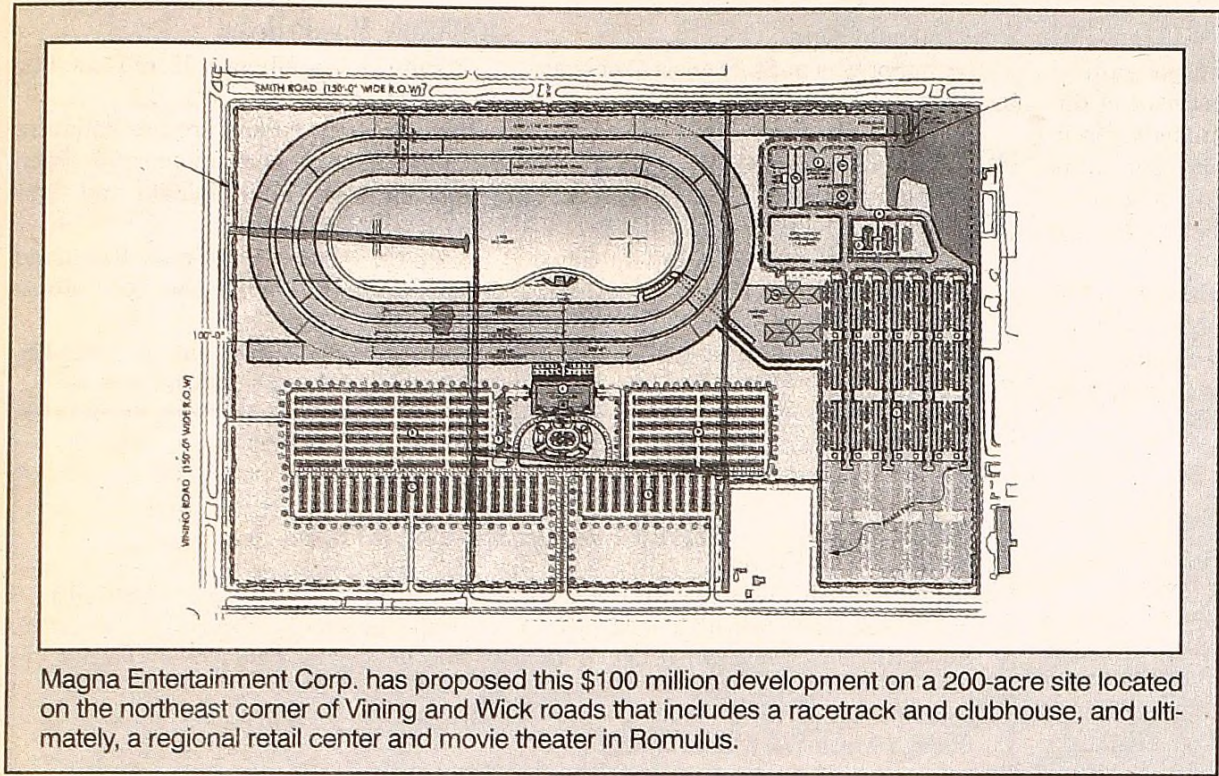
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License

FROM PAGE 1

There are seven operational racetracks within the State of Michigan. One of the three applicants will be awarded the remaining track license sometime this year, Perrone said.

Magna Entertainment Corp. (MEC) proposed a \$100 million development on 200-acre site located on the northeast corner of Vining and Wick that includes a racetrack and clubhouse, and ultimately, a regional retail center and movie theater in the city of Romulus. Magna spent \$28 million for the property.

Romulus residents approved development of the track at a Dec. 2 special election.

Magna representative John Truscott said at that time that Magna estimated that the development would bring about 3,300 jobs to the City of Romulus and 1,200 of those would be jobs at

the racetrack.

"We have the support of the people, the city council and the mayor in the city of Romulus," said Lorne Kumer, vice president of real estate for MEC. "We have spent more than \$2 million on plans and drawings and we are closely working with the city to get a final approval of Great Lakes Downs by July of this year."

The track and retail portion of the MEC project, during a 12-year period, would create \$70 million in direct tax revenues for Romulus, as well as \$10 million in breakage funds.

Kumer said he believes that MEC will be awarded the license because of their experience in the horse racing industry.

Danou, a Southeastern Michigan real estate developer, who is proposing a track Van Buren, owns several properties in the township, including the Northwest intersection of I-94, I-275 and Haggerty Road.

"I see potential in Van Buren Township," said Danou.

Danou has had an application with the racing commission since 2002.

Danou has plans to make a different thoroughbred track than those found elsewhere in Michigan.

He said he doesn't see other racetracks as a threat. The racetrack would be set up to do national competitions, in hopes to revive the horse racing industry.

"It would be a shot in the arm for the horseracing industry in Michigan," he said.

Danou estimates the project will cost anywhere between a \$100 million-\$200 million.

The third company seeking the license, Xanadu World/Tomby Ltd, applied for the license on April 5, 2004 to place a racetrack at Woodward and Manchester in Highland Park. The group has no experience in the racing industry and currently owns no land.

Judge announces re-election bid at 34th District Court

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Judge Brian A. Oakley of the 34th District Court has announced his bid for reelection.

The 34th District Court serves the cities of Belleville and Romulus and the townships of Huron, Sumpter and Van Buren. Oakley was elected in 1998 and started his first term in 1999.

Oakley said that he brings a livelihood and passion to the court system.

"People come up to me and tell me I look like I'm having so much fun up there in the courtroom," said Oakley. "That's because I am. Helping the people who come through the courtroom is not work to me."

Oakley said he is constantly seeking a better "mouse trap" and has been instrumental in the implementation of several new programs at the court. His innovations include the Juvenile Justice Program, which allow youthful offenders to be closely monitored locally, rather than in downtown Detroit by an overburdened county juvenile program, he said.

"We are always looking to try new programs," said Oakley. "The chief judge is starting 'sobriety courts.' It will be a faster-paced handling of court cases. It will include an intense follow through and relationship between the judges and the offenders. To keep on top of them, we will meet once a week to see how they are doing."

Oakley and area educators have also developed an at-court suspension program. The program will allow schools and parents to "sentence" a child to a day in court when the only other alternative is a suspension from school and a "free" day at home.

"We are talking with the Romulus schools to start a teen

court," said Oakley. "The judge would be involved, but the kids would do the trial. It was a big success in Plymouth and was very effective on selling the court system to the kids."

Oakley said that most children have negative thoughts about the court system. This program would give them faith and an understanding of how the process works, he said.

As a husband and a father, he said children are important, and that he understands the many problems that families face today.

"I feel like I've made a difference, especially with kids," said Oakley. "Education is the key that opens life's doors. I am constantly telling the kids that more education equals greater opportunities. To know that I've made a difference is very gratifying."

He said that he truly cares about people and their problems, and he tries to treat everyone with respect and dignity.

"Any one of us can make mistakes and have bad things happen in our lives, but I cannot abide a liar or someone who will not try to improve their situation," said Oakley. "Take care of business—do what you have to do to stay out of trouble and work toward your goals. Do that and life stays simple; not easy, but simple."

Oakley's reelection bid has already been endorsed by a significant number of elected officials, unions and law enforcement groups. He said his supporters span both party lines. Oakley said this is a vote of confidence for a job well done.

"Now I know what people mean when they say that they love their job," said Oakley. "I love going to work every day because it's not really work. When I started law in 1987 there were days when I loved it, but now I have many more of those days."

Library

FROM PAGE 1

Reads Program selection this year

Also included in the activities is the bi-annual Friends of the Library used book sale April 19-21 and 24.

"This book sale is important to the library, because it pays for summer reading programs at the library and other programs that are not in our budget," said

DeLano. "The prices are quite reasonable."

Books are \$1, paperbacks are \$.50, records and videos are \$1 and children's books are \$.25. Also on April 24, a bag of children's books will be \$1.50.

"The point of all of the activities is to bring people into the library," said DeLano. "We want to attract people to sign up for a library card and check out a book for themselves or their child."

For more information call (734) 942-7589.

Violations

FROM PAGE 1

"Either people are being really good or the police are not writing enough tickets out there," he said.

Chief Judge Tina Brooks Greene at the 34th District Court said that part of the drop in revenue, along with the fewer number of tickets being issued, could be the result of alternative sen-

tencing.

"I have had more people ask me for community service in the last year than in the previous 10 years I have been here," she said. "They say they lost their job and are trying to make ends meet. Some of them even requested to do the jail time, because they simply can't afford the fines."

The actual numbers will not officially be known until July, when the current fiscal year ends.



Parents and teachers from all six Romulus elementary schools are participating in the new Parent Implementation Program in an effort to increase parent participation within the schools.

Implementation

FROM PAGE 1

Adkins said she believes that parents want to be involved in their child's school life, but much of the time they simply don't know how to do it. She also said that the schools share the blame, because they have not done a

good job of informing parents.

"Parents see that they are not alone in this program," said Adkins. "They are becoming more involved, because they are learning what they can do."

The Romulus School District has also recently become a member of the National Network of Partnership Schools sponsored by John Hopkins University. The program stresses six types of par-

ent involvement that can help students and schools meet important educational goals.

"We want to help the parents change their attitude and the way they feel about school," said Adkins. "Many of our parents have not had positive experiences in school and we want to change that for their children. This program is the first step to accomplishing that goal."

OBITUARIES

KADAU, Earl G.

Earl G. Kadau, 87, of Romulus, died March 31.

Among his survivors are his wife of 58 years, Lois M. (Korndorfer) Kadau; a daughter, Mariene (David) Svacha of Romulus; a son, Roger E. (Paula) Kadau of Romulus; five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Kadau served in the U.S. Army.

Funeral services were at the Community United Methodist Church where Mr. Kadau was a member with the Rev. William Kren officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

BEES, Marguerite H.

Marguerite H. Bees, 84, of Belleville, died April 3.

Among her survivors are her children, Robert J. (Alana) Bees of Belleville, James A. Bees of Ecorse and Ann L. (Alan) Kish of Southgate; a sister, Phyllis J. (Robert) Borden of Paradise, CAL.; five grandchildren, Keith, Randy and Craig Bees and Leslie and Michael Kish, and five great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Bees attended Grace Baptist Church in Belleville.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Interment of cremains was at Grandlawn Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

GIBSON, Phillip L.

Phillip L. Gibson, 65, of Belleville, formerly of Westland, died April 3.

Among his survivors is his wife of more than 45 years, Jolene (Childers) Gibson; sons, Tony (Carla) Gibson of Belleville, Phillip Terry (Darlene) Gibson of Saline and Craig (Joie Cummings) Gibson of Ft. Worth, TX.; a brother, J. Mike (Evon) Gibson of Ashcamp, KY and Dr. K.D. Gibson of Elkhorn City, KY, and five grandchildren.

Mr. Gibson served in the U.S. Army dur-

ing the Korean Conflict. He served as Boy Scoutmaster of Troop 754 for many years. He was employed as a supervisor at the General Motors Powertrain Hydromatic Plant in Ypsilanti for 34 years, prior to his retirement. Mr. Gibson attended Graceway Baptist Church, also in Ypsilanti.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with the Rev. James C. Southward officiating.

Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville.

LORENZ, Fred A. Sr.

Fred A. Lorenz Sr., 78, of Romulus, died April 3.

Among his survivors are his children, Paulette (Ray) Dugan, Fred (Becky) Lorenz, Jr., Kathy (Edward) Tobin and Odette (Shawn) Ferguson, all of Romulus; siblings, Thea Clasen of Ypsilanti, William Lorenz of Belleville, Mary Lou Lemanski of Petoskey and JoAnn (Robert) Lange of Maybee; grandchildren, Jennifer (Marc) Wolney, Fred A. Lorenz, III, Mary Kathryn (Ken) Webster, Sarah Lorenz, Shannon Dugan, Allyson Lorenz and Andrew Ferguson, and a great-granddaughter, Kathryn Wolney.

Mr. Lorenz owned Saw & Specialty Corp. in Romulus for 30 years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Funeral services were at St. Stephen Catholic Church in New Boston with Father Alexander J. Wyrwal officiating.

Interment was at Romulus Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus.

SKIDGELL, Holland

Holland Skidgell, 92, of Sumpter Township, died April 2.

Among his survivors are his son, Russell H. Skidgell of Belleville; brothers, Alfred and Thomas Skidgell; two sisters; seven grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home with the Rev. Joel A. Dunning of Apostolic Faith Church in

Ypsilanti officiating.

Interment was at St. Francis Cemetery in Waterville, MA.

HALE, Christopher Paul

Christopher Paul Hale, 20, of Belleville, died April 3.

Funeral services were at the Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Huron Township.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

JOHNSON, Mamie Helen

Mamie Helen Johnson, 75, of Romulus, died March 1.

Among her survivors are her children, Donald, Deborah and Demetre; a sister, grandsons, Mario and Reginald, and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Gethsemane Baptist Church with the Rev. John Duckworth officiating.

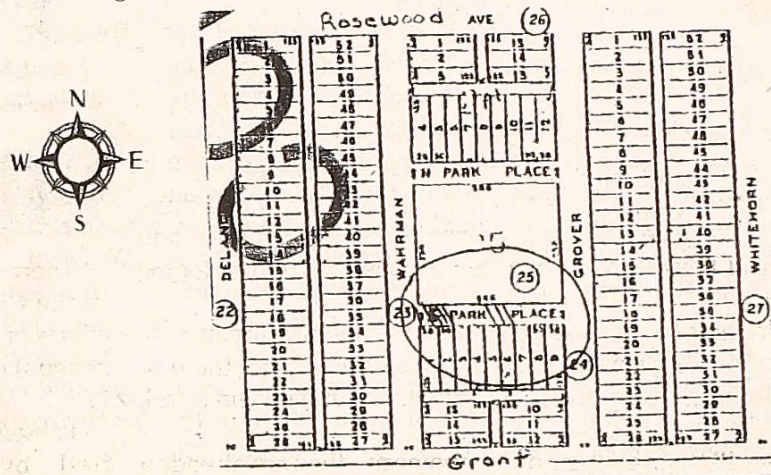
Arrangements were entrusted to the Penn Funeral Home in Inkster.

NOTICE

CITY OF ROMULUS STREET & ALLEY VACATION

Notice is hereby given, that the City Council of the City of Romulus, has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 on Monday, May 03, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed vacation of South Park Place in the Junction Subdivision, Block 24 between Grover and Wahrman abutting Lots 1 through 9 inclusive located as follows:

Vacate South Park Place in the Junction Subdivision Block 24 abutting Lots 1 through 9 inclusive.



Written comments may be submitted to the attention of Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485, no later than 12:00 o'clock noon, Monday, May 03, 2004.

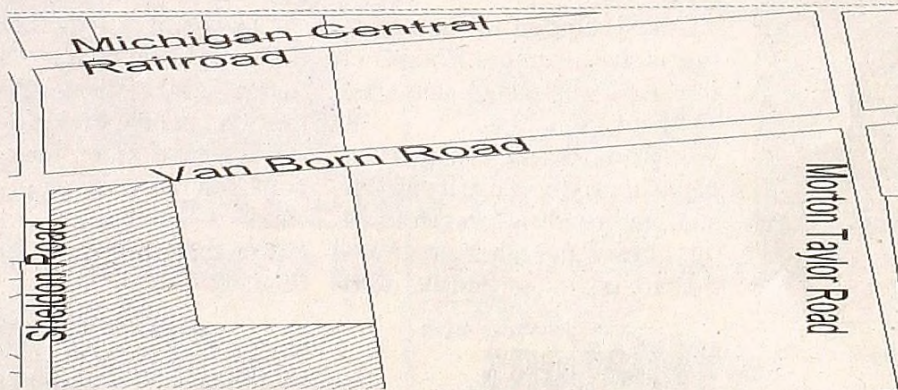
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 15, 2004
April 22, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday April 28, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

Parcel numbers V125-83-009-99-0006-702 approximately 20 acres proposed to be rezoned from M-1 General Industrial District to RM Multiple Dwelling Residential.



A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below. This property is located on the east side of Sheldon Road and west side of Morton Taylor Road.

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

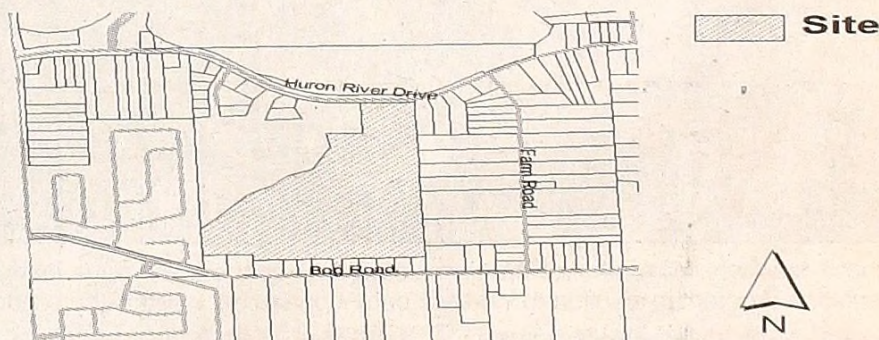
Published: April 15, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday April 28, 2004 to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-118-99-0007-712 approximately 40.93 acres is located on the south side of West Huron River Drive East of Rawsonville Road and West of Farm Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a Planned Residential Development (PRD) per Section 7.04 of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., April 28, 2004, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: April 15, 2004

OPINION

The best laid plans

'Doesn't anyone try to preserve history any more?'

It's an easy feeling for some to foster in the City of Plymouth.

Gone is the old Daisy Air Rifle plant that once put the city on the map. All that remains is a façade, gingerly held in place by thick iron braces as construction workers race to build condominiums around it.

The copper beech tree that once dominated the prominent corner near Ann Arbor Trail and Union Street is also a thing of the past, a victim of an expensive but botched attempt to relocate it.

The Penn Theater, long a downtown centerpiece, may soon follow a similar path. Although the façade and structure will stay the same, it's unlikely that the landmark will remain a movie house.

It probably won't matter to those who grump about the vanishing past of Plymouth that earnest efforts have been made to preserve it. They will see only a vacancy where a beautiful tree once flourished, condominiums that give a meager nod toward the memory of a once-thriving national business that dominated the local scene.

They probably won't shrug their shoulders, good-naturedly, and say: 'Well, it was worth a shot.'

They'll see only the result, not the pains that were taken to avoid them. The original plan for the tree was for it to provide shade for years to come. The original plan for the Daisy Square condominiums showed a renovation of the original, historical portion of the former air rifle factory; it was only as the remaining parts were stripped away that engineers found the bulk of the building to be unstable. At that point, it was probably cheaper for workers to take the whole thing down and try to recreate it, but the original brick will stay and add another historical flourish to a town that is constantly redeveloping itself.

That's important to remember, as progress continually threatens to erode the past. We can't always make our plans stick. Even the best made proposals fall victim to things as ordinary as gravity and a lack of water.

These things will be given their proper homage—they are already a part of the Plymouth Historical Museum. So history will survive, intact. You just have to know where to look.

The pot and the kettle

If representatives from the State Department of Management and Budget take up the invitation from the Northville Township Board of Trustees to attend the next study session on the 420-acre former Northville Psychiatric Hospital, the meeting may not be as cordial as they have been in the past.

That's because those state representatives have indicated that they think township officials have been uncooperative in ongoing attempts to sell the land for at least \$65 million.

Uncooperative? That's the proverbial pot talking to the kettle.

Members of the township board, the planning commission as well as state representatives and senators have been trying to work with the state to make the sale of the land—and its subsequent development—as beneficial as possible to both parties.

Without a doubt, Supervisor Mark Abbo will be as polite as always if the budget people attend the study session at 6:30 tonight. But we think he's got every right to be more than a little annoyed.

After all, the state has already been negatively impacting the budget for the township by reducing state shared revenue. Now officials want to further that negative impact by imposing a price too high for the land. That will ultimately translate into too much development for the township infrastructure, a bigger burden on the school system and a

See **State**, page 6

THIS IS QUITE A RACE!!



Quality, not quantity

There's been a lot of talk lately in the City of Wayne about the effects of blight on the community and the best ways to get rid of it.

It's something that was identified by the Wayne 2020 Committee as one of their top priorities, but the effort to control and reduce it actually started long before that group got together.

In fact, it's easy to agree with the assessment of city officials when they say the city has been on the forefront of blight control attempts during the past several years. They've got a lot of tools they use, both positive and negative reinforcement, and the building department, community development department and the city attorney aren't shy about test-driving new ways to fight the problem as soon as they become available.

Still, there's some debate about the best way to make blight disappear.

Ideally, everyone would take care of their own property

because they realize they can have the biggest effect on this ongoing battle. But for one reason or another, that doesn't always happen. Some people don't care about their property or the city, others may have fallen on hard times and can't afford to fix up their property. And yes, there are probably plenty of jerks out there that just like to spite their neighbors or the city.

The issue came to a bit of a head last week on a piece of property that the city purchased through an accelerated process that municipalities can now use to buy tax-reverted property for the cost of the outstanding taxes.

It could be quite a coup for the city—located on Michigan Avenue, it was the former site of Taylor Doors, a non-descript, even ugly building near Venoy Road. The city paid about \$24,000 for it, and is marketing it for \$200,000. That'd be quite a profit, but the city can't keep the extra money. All they can do is recoup the costs. Anything left over is turned over to Wayne County.

The question then became: should the city market it as is, or should the city tear it down and market the vacant land? Which would be more valuable, in the long run?

Councilman Don Hartford brought up the question, and it's easy to see where he's coming from. Sell the building, and the city runs the risk of having someone purchase it and simply bring it up to code before opening a business there. Sure, another business would supplant a vacant building, but we'd be still be stuck with an ugly building and a potentially under-utilized property. Since the extra money is going to the county, he said it makes sense to put that money into the site in hopes that it will attract a better development.

He's got a point. The 'any business is better than an empty store' philosophy is what brought a proliferation of dollar stores

See **Quality**, page 6

What if this is really heaven?

I had a pleasant surprise the other day when I answered the door. Junebug Clark, a long-time friend was standing there with a grin on his face, a typical Junebug look.

That's right, Junebug.

"I was in the neighborhood taking care of some of Aunt Helen's estate and thought I'd stop."

"Come in, I'm delighted you stopped," I said. "Are you hungry?"

"Coffee'd be good."

Junebug, a talented photographer, started shooting pictures when he was 4 years old. Yup, 4, and in those days the camera was almost as big as him. He even did some professional shooting for the old *Detroit Times* newspaper.

Junebug's legend is "Pictures

that tell a story," and believe me, his pictures look into the soul.

Sitting on the couch, sipping coffee, Junebug started telling me about a woman he knows who is the kind of person who stands out in a crowd.

"It's always about her problems," he said.

When Junebug said the word "problems," something clicked in my head.

I thought for an instant and immediately realized; I don't have any problems. My next thought was, boy, does that feel good.

A day later, I was still trying to think of a problem I have. I have my health, food, shelter and transportation today. My needs are met 100 percent. As I think about that, I get more grateful by the minute for what I do have

and how I think these days.

It hasn't always been like that. For years, I was a victim of life. People did things to me. I couldn't get a break. Some jerk with nowhere near as much talent as I have got a better deal, made more money, had more fame. Why me, why was I always the one with problems?

Thanks to God-induced humility and a lot of hard work that began with willingness to change, my life became 10,000 percent better. With help from friends and lots of humility, I began to learn how to create new healthy, positive pictures in my life, pictures that brought happiness.

See **Heaven**, page 6

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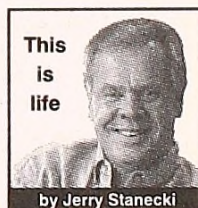
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This is life

by Jerry Stanecki

Walking is more than just exercise

In my experience, the way people walk gives them away quicker than anything else. I think if I were an actor, I would study a role and make sure I understood how my character walks. Fast or slow? Upright or slouched? It all says something about a person.

I think that as you get older and you don't want to appear old, one of the most important things is to police the way you walk. If you have a spring in your step, you give people the idea that you're optimistic and that you're having a good time. You don't want to slouch and shuffle around. (I've found that even when I'm a little down,

walking with a little more energy actually makes me feel better.)

There's even talk that people in the workplace draw conclusions about their coworkers based on how they walk. A brisk walker is viewed more positively than a leisurely one. The idea is that a brisk walker is on his way to accomplish something, to meet a deadline.

I always encourage people to walk whenever possible because it's great exercise.

While you're at it, think about whether the way you walk says what you want it to.

And please remember to take care of your health before it's

long gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

State

FROM PAGE 5

larger drain on township resources. When township officials try to protect their communi-

ty from these things, they are labeled as uncooperative.

It's ironic, since township officials have tried for the better part of a year now, to tell state officials that they were simply asking too much money for the land. It's sad that a venture that began with

such optimistic, cooperative hopes has degenerated into something like this and it's a bit of a joke to try to put a label like 'uncooperative' on township officials when the state has refused to move their line in the sand. Isn't cooperation a two-way street?

Quality

FROM PAGE 5

and discount grocers to the city. It calls to mind an old quote from Dennis Miller during one of his rants against those types of places: 'Guess what, folks, two of (expletive) is still (expletive).'

City officials defended the plan to market the property as is by saying if the building is torn down, it might limit options for selling the site. There might be people out there that want to buy

the building rather than construct a new one. Since the city is selling the property, they said they would have more control over who bought it and what they could place there. It's an option they used for years, apparently, to fend off developers who wanted to put a gas station at the corner of Wayne Road and Michigan Avenue.

In the end they decided to compromise on the Taylor Door site and solicit bids for both the building and the land without the building. It's probably the best concession Hartford could have

received from the rest of the council, who seemed surprised by his idea.

I just hope, when it comes time to sell the land and develop the property, city officials will think about the difference between filling a vacant site and building up the town. History has shown it's not always the same thing.

Heaven

FROM PAGE 5

That spurred the next thought. What if this life is really heaven? I mean, nobody ain't never come back and told me what's next.

Think about it. Would you be a little more willing to bring

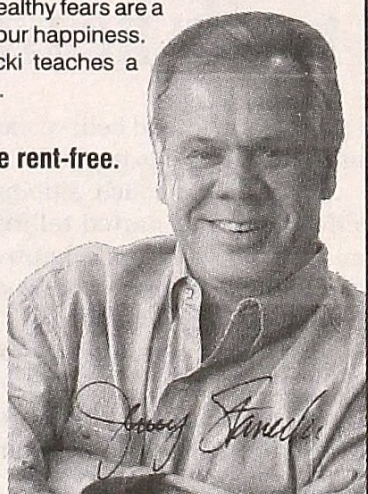
changes to make your life better if you knew this was it? I'd bet you would.

Fact is, it's up to each of us to make life happy, joyous and free. It is only you that feel your feelings. It is only you who can choose to change those feelings from negative to powerfully positive. And, if you don't know how, ask for help.

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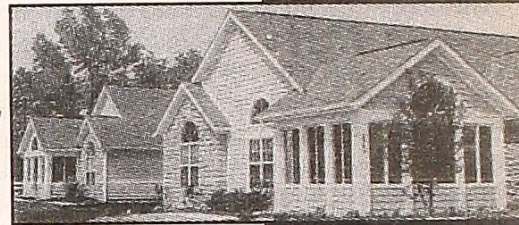
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This Wednesday through Saturday, April 14, 15, 16 and 17th, over 120+ of these "Exceptional Value" vehicles will be disposed of at the sale location: Dick Scott Nissan, 42175 Michigan Avenue, 1/4 Mile West of I-275 in Canton, Michigan regardless of loss of profit. Market conditions have allowed us to acquire a large selection of these vehicles from auctions, banks and vehicle dealers for immediate disposal. Vehicles will be sold direct to the public for up to thousands below normal values! Some payments as low as \$79 per month*, with only \$29.00 Down*. The vehicles and their titles have been inspected and are ready for immediate delivery*.

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on hand with millions of auto loan dollars available to assure these vehicles will be sold in Canton and no transported back to auction. Its never been so easy to save thousands and take immediate delivery* of a quality, pre-owned vehicle.

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Smart shoppers, deep discount buyers and bargain seekers alike are all welcome to this once in a lifetime savings event. **No wholesalers, dealers or curbstoners will be permitted.** Vehicles will be disposed of on a first come first serve basis. Although, vehicles will be arriving daily, come early for the best selection. **No overnight camping will be permitted.**

This sale ends Saturday, April 17th, at 5 pm. Many of the remaining vehicles will be sent to auction, so don't wait. Starting Wednesday, April 14th, questions can be directed toll free to 877-559-2689.

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Wayne police honored for exceptional efforts

Scott Spielman
Editor

The City of Wayne honored three police officers last week who exhibited extra effort to solve some outstanding cases.

Officer Ben Corney, along with Sgt. Edward Johnson and Ofc. Jacob Emerick received certificates of commendation for two separate cases, according to Wayne Police Chief Mike Sumeracki. Corney and Johnson have been with the department since 1988, and Emerick was hired in 2001.

The citations are recommended by a citation board, made up of department members of various ranks, that reviews the performance of Wayne police officers, he said.

"We've got good guys here," Sumeracki said. "Their work is important to the city, and they do a good job."

Corney was on duty on Feb. 28, 2004 when a call came in to Wayne dispatch that a red Ford pickup truck had just left the Wayne Stamping Plant, according to Sumeracki. A witness said the driver was carrying two bags out of the plant that might have contained stolen items.

Corney saw the truck and initiated a traffic stop.

As he talked to the suspect, Corney saw the two bags on the floor of the truck, which contained copper welding tips that the suspect admitted he had stolen from the plant, Sumeracki said.

Corney arrested the man, and then took the extra step, Sumeracki said. He visited recycling plants within the area.

"At one of the recycling shops in town,

he found a barrel with about 100 pounds of these tips in it," Sumeracki said. "At another, he found out that the suspect had just sold about 85 pounds of them."

The investigation allowed Wayne police to recover about \$8,000 of the estimated \$16,000 in copper tips that had been stolen from the plant, Sumeracki said.

The other incident took place last year, after a string of purse snatchings had been reported in October. One of those took place on Oct. 23, 2003 and the victim reported that she had seen a gray Cadillac leaving the scene of the crime, which was at the then-Farmer Jack's store.

Johnson noticed a vehicle at Westchester Towers, on Michigan Avenue near the scene of the crime. It was a gray Lincoln, which he thought was a close enough match to warrant further investigation. His quick call to dispatch confirmed his hunch - the car had been reported stolen.

He called Emerick for back up and the two interviewed the owner of the vehicle, who said she knew who had taken it. When they went into the apartment to interview the suspect, the two officers noticed a cell phone on a shelf which turned out to be from the stolen purse.

The investigation resulted in the arrest of three suspects for the purse snatchings as well as other stolen vehicles, Sumeracki said.

"They also cleared out four other purse-snatchings that all occurred at the Farmer Jack's," he said.

Mayor Al Haidous handed out the commendations last week.

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Inkster police seek help from 'America's Most Wanted'

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The whole world will soon be looking for Carlton Graham.

That's because Inkster police investigators have turned to the long-running FOX hit *America's Most Wanted* in the hope that someone from the public will be able to provide a crucial tip that will lead to the apprehension of Graham, also known as C-Murder, for his alleged role in the shooting death of 28-year-old Robert Lee Foster.

Producers from the show converged on the police department April 5 to tape a segment and talk to detectives and members of Foster's family about the case, said Det. Lt. Kevin Smith.

"We've used *America's Most Wanted* successfully before, and we're going to use everything at our disposal to bring

(Graham) to justice," Smith said.

Graham contacted police on two separate occasions from an untraceable cell phone shortly after the shooting, but investigators have not heard from him within the last month, according to police.

Detective Tony Delgreco, the lead investigator on the case, said he believes Graham, 21, is still in the Detroit area, where he has many family members.

The case against Graham began Jan. 25, when shots rang out as Foster walked to his vehicle at the Inkster Parks and Recreation Complex on Middlebelt Road. Police believe Graham and two accomplices planned the shooting. Witnesses

"We've used America's Most Wanted successfully before, and we're going to use everything at our disposal to bring (Graham) to justice,

Lt. Kevin Smith

have indicated to investigators that Graham fired the shots.

Nathaniel Love, 30, is an acquaintance of Graham's and is believed to be the mastermind behind the Jan. 25 shooting, Delgreco said. But Judge James McCartney of the 22nd District Court dismissed the first-degree murder case against Love after a Feb. 11 pre-examination determined that a Wayne County Prosecutor failed to swear in Jeanetta Epps, who police believe is also involved in the shooting, before she testified under an investigative subpoena.

At the pre-examination, Epps recanted her original statement – which implicated

Love and Graham in the fatal shooting of Foster – on the stand. Because the first statement couldn't be entered into evidence, prosecutors could not use it to impeach conflicting testimony.

When apprehended, Graham will face a first-degree murder charge, which in Michigan is punishable by life imprisonment with no chance of parole.

"We're determined to bring an end to this case. It might not be today, or tomorrow or next week, but we will do everything we can to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion," Smith said.

The show featuring Graham will be televised at 9 p.m. Saturday, April 24 on FOX-2.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Graham is asked to call Delgreco at (313) 563-9856. To leave an anonymous tip, call (313) 277-4118 or 1 (800) SPEAK-UP.

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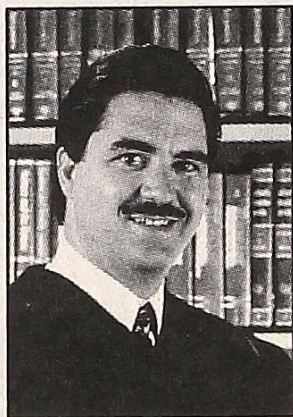
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Van Buren Twp. POLC - Patrols Officers Union and POLC - Command Officers Union
Wayne County Law Enforcement Supervisory - Local 3317 - A.F.S.C.M.E. • Wayne County Sheriff/Airport Police Local 502 - Natl. Union of Police Officers S.E. U.I.U. AFL-CIO • Michigan Teamsters Joint Council 43

*Partial Listing

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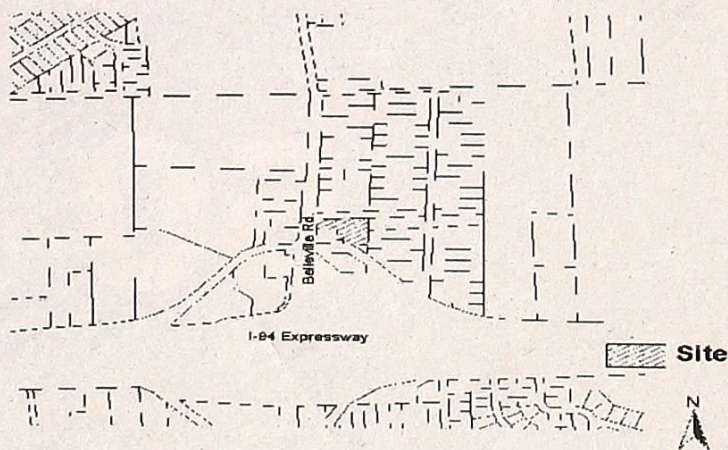
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 20, 2004 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

This is a portion of parcel with the tax ID number V-125-83-059-01-0011-002. This property is located on the east side of Belleville Road between I-94 Service Road and Tyler Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for a drive-through window per Section 13.03 (e) of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., April 20, 2004, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Publish: April 15, 2004

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN

ORDINANCE 03-16-04 (1) PROPOSED REZONING MAP

Second reading of ordinance for adoption.

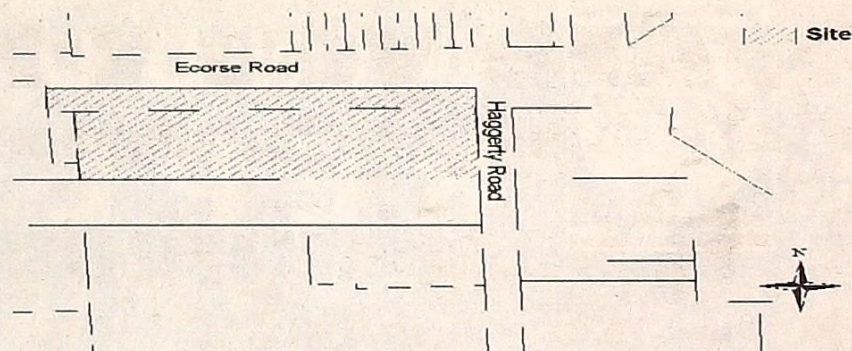
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ZONING ORDINANCE 03-16-04 (1), AS AMENDED, OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ORDAINS:

Section 1. The Zoning Map in connection with the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Van Buren shall be amended so that the zoning of the following described property to wit:

Ordinance Number 03-16-04 (1)

To rezone parcel numbers: V125-83-041-99-0001-714 and V125-83-041-99-0001-001 from M-1 (Light Industrial) to C-1 (General Business).



Legal Description of Property:

Parcel number and Parcel number V125-83-041-99-0001-714 and V125-83-041-99-0001-001, located on the south side of Ecorse Road between Morton Taylor and Haggerty Road.

Section 2. All Ordinances and parts of Ordinance in conflict herewith are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 3. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication.

Section 4. This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting held on the 6th day of April, 2004.

Yeas: Rochowiak, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Payne and King.
Nays: None.
Absent and Excused: Herman.

This Ordinance shall be immediately recorded by the Township Clerk in the Township Ordinance Book as soon as it is adopted, which record shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Supervisor and Clerk and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within ten (10) days after its passage.

I hereby certify that Ordinance 03-16-04 (1) was published in the Belleville Enterprise, a newspaper circulating within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Published: April 15, 2004

Local thespians to appear in Livonia play

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Crime may not pay for the small-time crooks in George F. Walker's play, *Criminal Genius*, but the continued popularity of the story suggests that crime can entertain.

That's one of the reasons Jack In The Box productions, under the auspices of the Livonia Art Commission, chose the play as the spring offering, according to director Kathleen Sugamosto.

The comedy revolves around the antics of several second-rate criminals hired by the mob. The story focuses on a bumbling father and son team, played by Wayne Weber of Warren and Eric Donovan of Plymouth. The men are hired by Shirley "the Pearl" Katakis, played by Jennifer Harvey of Northville, to burn down a restaurant run by a mob boss. Katakis is herself employed by a rival mob boss, Sugamosto explained.

The men balk at the potential violence of the arson, and instead decide to kidnap the cook, Amanda (Deb Dworkin of Royal Oak.) This turns out to be a very poor decision, as Amanda is the estranged daughter of the mob boss. A genial, drunken motel manager (Alonzo Luzod of Farmington Hills) tries to sort out the chaos around him and provides additional comic relief.

"What we're dealing with are some very inept guys doing the things they do," said Harvey.

According to her, watching the half-witted criminals try to sort out their problems and regain control over the situation is what makes the play entertaining.

"It's kind of like the Cops TV show," said Harvey. "I think a lot of people are into reality TV shows (and) it's very funny to see these criminals in action."

The group selected the play in part because even though it is very popular, it is rarely presented.

"When this production ran at the Purple Rose (Theater in Chelsea), its popularity made the theater increase its run," said Harvey. She added that the group liked to bring fresh material to the community, rather than staging yet another showing of theater classics like *Oklahoma* or the *Sound of Music*.

The show is not recommended for children under 13 years of age, Harvey said, because the script contains profanity, as well as 'gunfire' from starter pistols. Still, she said that she would not want to exaggerate the amount of adult language it contains.

"Some of the junk you see on TV every night at 8 is much worse; the play just has some profanity," she said,

Show times are 8 p.m. April 16, 17, 23, and 24 in the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium. The auditorium is located off Five Mile Road between Merriman and Farmington roads. All tickets are \$10.

"We like to bring affordable productions to the community," said Harvey.

Criminal Genius is the 16th show staged by Jack-in-the-Box Productions since it was founded in 1996. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Jack-in-the-Box Productions at 1-313-516-5225. The Livonia Arts Commission sponsors this event.

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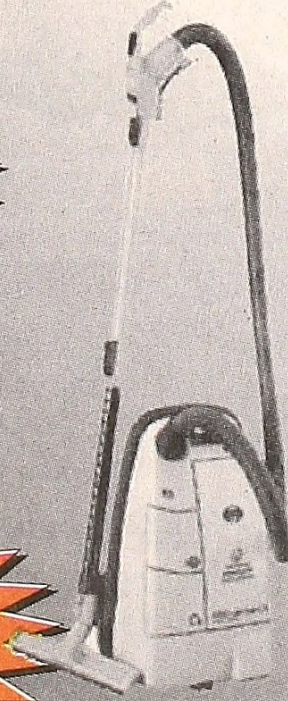
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Sweet success

Chocolate tasting event benefits historic Nankin Mill

Sharon Emeigh
Staff Writer

It was a decadent dream or a dieter's nightmare.

Either way, the Friends of Nankin Mills enticed residents to join them for "Sweet Spring," a dessert and chocolate tasting early this month.

The event took place at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center and was organized to help fund improvements to the facility, according to Denise Johnson, president of the Friends of Nankin Mills.

The interpretive center tells the natural and cultural history of the Nankin Mill and the Rouge River watershed, according to the organization.

Last year, about 18,000 people visited the mill and the interpre-

tive center to take part in activities, provided by the Friends of Nankin Mills.

The Friends of Nankin Mills was established in 1988. The group works in collaboration with the Wayne County Parks Department to improve and restore the old mill and ensure that it remains a community resource for years to come.

The mill has served Wayne County since 1842. There have been two mills on the site. The first opened in 1835 and was destroyed by fire in 1842. It is believed that the mill may have been a stop on the Underground Railroad that guided slaves across the border into Canada and freedom. Some believe that the mill was burned because of that participation in harboring fugitive slaves. Samuel Harden-

burgh built the present mill in 1863.

As a child, Henry Ford visited the mill on trips to the area with his father. In 1918, the automaker bought the mill and turned it into a factory, one of several converted mills throughout the area. One of the incentives was the hydroelectric power that the mills had the potential to harness. The other was the desire to stabilize the economy in farming communities, so that farmers would not have to leave the land to find employment.

About \$600 was generated at the Sweet Spring event, according to Marty Johnson. Cakes, chocolates, and other treats were available to sample as well as purchase. One of the big draws was chocolate covered spoons made by Barbara Lee with her

daughter, Gabrielle, and Denise Johnson. The spoons were dipped in melted chocolate and hardened. Then they are stirred into a cup of coffee.

"Everybody had a good time," Marty Johnson said. "We raised money for a good cause that will help to bring more events at the mill to the public."

Contributions went to funding exhibits, assisting with activities, and craft events that the Friends of Nankin Mills provide to visitors, Denise Johnson said.

"Supporting the Friends of Nankin Mills allows us to add exhibits and enhance the experience for families who come to visit," Johnson said.

For more information on the history of Nankin Mills, the interpretive center, or the friends, visit www.nankinmills.org.

Student operated radio station wins state honors

The student-run radio station at Salem High School, WSDP, 88.1 FM, was honored as the High School Station of the year at the Michigan Association of Education Broadcasters' (MAEB) Honors night.

The award was presented April 7 at Canton High School. It was presented in recognition of outstanding community service and promotion of educational radio,

according to station manager Bill Keith.

To be considered for the accolade of Station of the Year, member stations were required to submit a one-page summary of a particular achievement from the past year. The WSDP entry focused on the series of broadcast symposiums hosted by the station, Keith said. The symposiums provided a chance to meet with professional

broadcasters from varied career paths.

Many 88.1 FM student broadcasters also received individual awards.

Canton sophomore Scott Decker won a gold in Production, a silver in Sports Play-by-Play, a bronze in News/Sportscaster and a bronze in Aircheck categories.

Salem junior Lauren Hostler won a gold in Production and a bronze in Aircheck while Salem

senior Allie Sturk won silvers in Production and Sports Play-by-Play. Canton senior Brian Smith won silver in Aircheck as well as a bronze in News/Sportscast.

Salem sophomore Bryan Kelly and junior Kurt Edelbrock both won gold in production. Steve Portelli, a Salem Senior, won second in Production and Canton junior Bonnie Staley took home a bronze for Production.

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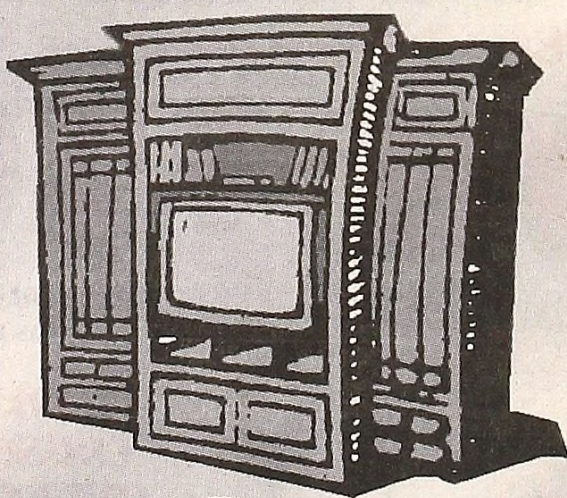
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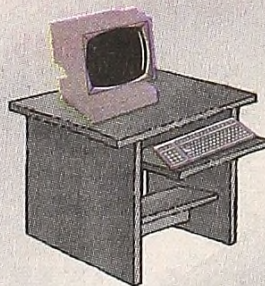
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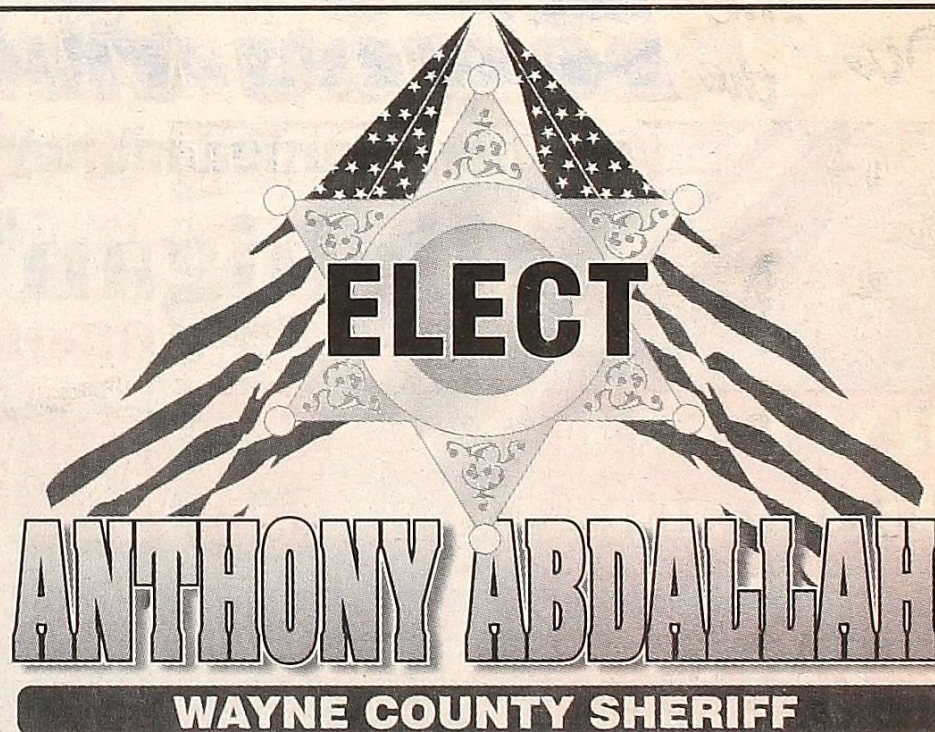


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SPORTS

Guelph Storm sweeps Whalers in playoffs

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers will head to the golf courses early this year, as the Guelph Storm swept them out of the playoffs in the second round.

They finished the disappointing post-season run with a 5-1 loss to the Storm in Game 4 of the Western Conference playoffs on Wednesday, April 7.

Ryan Ramsay put Plymouth on the board first with an even-strength goal at 6:37 in the first period. Dan Collins and Jordan Grant earned the assist on the lone goal for the Whalers. It was all down hill after that. The Guelph would storm back to score five unanswered goals, with three of them on power plays and all in the third period.

Their first score came at 13:29 in the first when Ryan Callahan tucked the puck past Plymouth goaltender Paul Drew to tie the game, 1-1. Niko Tuomi and Martin St. Pierre earned the assists. St. Pierre added the second Storm goal 1:30 later to give them a 2-1 lead. Brett Trudell and Kevin Klein notched the assists on the play that pretty much knocked the Whalers out of the playoffs.



The Plymouth Whalers fell short against the Guelph Storm in game four on Wednesday, April 7. The 5-1 loss resulted in a sweep for the Storm and they will move on to play the London Knights in the Western Conference finals.

The second frame of play remained scoreless and the Storm maintained the one-goal lead to enter the final period of

play.

There, they dominated on the power play to score three goals and put the game away, 5-1.

Klein scored just 1:25 into the period with St. Pierre and Callahan earning the assists on the play. Whaler captain and

defenseman James Wisniewski was serving time in the penalty box for slashing in the second period.

With only 23 seconds left in Ramsay's slashing penalty, Klein managed his fourth goal of the series with help from Daniel Grardi and Jakub Koreis at 6:21. The goal made it a 4-1 game.

Trudell put the game away, 5-1, with a goal at 11:12. Mike Knight was in the box for high sticking and John Mitchell was also serving time for holding, which gave the Storm a two-man advantage. St. Pierre and Klein each recorded their fourth point of the game with assists on the play.

The sweep was a surprise since the Whalers dominated the Storm in the teams' final two meetings of the regular season. On January 3, the Whalers prevailed with a 3-2 victory and earned a 6-2 win on February 13. Earlier in the year, the teams tied twice in overtime.

The Guelph Storm will move on to face the London Knights in the Western Conference finals.

Plymouth's season ended with a 36-29-9-3 record. Mike Vellucci, Plymouth's head coach and general manager, was unavailable for final comments.

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A Plan	\$22107	\$36933	\$23570R16 A/S BSW
X Plan	\$27061	\$42185	AM/FM stereo, w/6 CD in dash. Stock #50027. Was \$28,105
"DD" Plan	\$27919	\$43084	

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	24 mo. lease renewal**	mo. payment	due at signing
A Plan	\$19675	\$72856	\$24545R17 BSW
X Plan	\$24285	\$77742	BSW tires, interior upgrade pkg. Stock #41223. Was \$25,525
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	24 mo. lease renewal**	mo. payment	due at signing
A Plan	\$17190	\$33221	\$42375
X Plan	\$22268	\$38593	Was \$30,520
"DD" Plan	\$23113	\$39500	

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL
HELD MARCH 22, 2004 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS,
MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William A. Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller,
Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.
Absent: None.
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-134

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 8, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-135

3A1 Motion by Romak, supported by Prybyla in accordance with the Romulus City Charter Section 14.2, to schedule a public hearing for May 3, 2004 at 6:00 p.m., for the purpose of hearing comments on vacating that part of South Park Place abutting Lots 1-9, Block 24, Junction Subdivision.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-136

4A. Motion by Romak, supported by Wadsworth to concur with City Attorney's recommendation on School Tax Collection as discussed in an Executive Session held at 6:00 p.m., March 22, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-137

4B. Motion by Romak, supported to send correspondence to the United States Congress requesting that the City of Romulus and the affected surrounding communities have the ability to be a part of the decision making process, regarding the EPA Region V decision, in the EDS matter.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-138

4C. Motion by Crova, supported by Romak to adopt a memorial resolution to the family of Mr. Weston D. Poet.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Romak, supported by Miller to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-139

5A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Crova to concur with the administration and acknowledge the receipt of the COPS Grant through the Downriver Community Conference in the amount of \$49,400.00.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-140

5B. Motion by Romak, supported by Miller to concur with Department of Public Works Director, Carl Brooks and the Administration to designate May 15, through May 22, 2004, as Romulus Spring Clean Up Week and to authorize free dumping to Romulus Residents who comply with established guidelines, on May 15, and May 17, through May 22, 2004, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-141

5C. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Romak to concur with the recommendation of Recreation Director, Herb Buckley and the Administration and approve the no-fee permits for the Annual City-Wide Yard Sale to be held Thursday, May 20, through Sunday, May 23 , 2004, with a rain date of June 3 through June 6, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-142

5D. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Miller to introduce Budget Amendment 03/04-35:

FUND/DEPT.		Current		Amended
Account No.	Account Name	Budget	Amendment	Budget
Emergency Management				
Revenues:				
592-4510-512.54-33	Homeland Exercise Grant	0	3,100	3,100
Expenditures				
592-4510-745.77-39	Engineering Fees	6,000	3,100	9,100

To recognize grant revenues and offsetting expenditures for the Homeland Exercise Grant approved previously by City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-143

5E. Motion to Crova, supported by Prybyla to introduce Budget Amendment 03/04-36:

FUND/DEPT.		Current		Amended
Account No.	Account Name	Budget	Amendment	Budget
Dept. of Public Works				
Revenues:				
101-4110-511.47-73	Soil Erosion Permits	25,000	6,150	31,150
Expenditures:				
101-4110-741.77-42	Contractual Services-Soil Erosion Expense	10,000	6,150	16,150

To recognize additional revenues collected and the offsetting expenditures for the Soil erosion Permit program thru June 30, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-144

5F. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to introduce Budget Amendment 03/04-37:

Fund/Dept.		Current		Amended
Account No.	Account Name	Budget	Amendment	Budget
Local Streets:				
Expenditures:				
203-4310-743.77-30	R.M. Contractual Svcs	169,058	102,851	271,909
Local Streets:				
Fund Balance				
Undesignated	159,799	(102,851)		56,948

To appropriate additional funds to cover final billing for the City's share of the Hildebrandt Road Project, approved by Council Resolution #01-231.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-145

5G. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Technology Services Coordinator, Sharon Raftary and Purchasing Coordinator Lynn Conway and award Bid 03/04-32 Computers and Computer Maintenance to the lowest qualified bidder, G.A. computers for a one (1) year contract.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Wayne Swimmers honored by city council for state performance

The Wayne Memorial High School swim team, led by Head coach Mike Grueber and assistant coach Ryan Zoumbarus, finished the season with an 8-3-1 record.

The winning season was compounded with the appearance of five swimmers at the State Finals Swim Competition, which was the first time in 11 years for Grueber, who has coached the team the past 12 years.

Andrew Drennen, Dennis Hermatz, Ryan Frost, Matt Feamster and Kyle Erdmann all swam at the state competition. Drennen, a senior co-captain,

competed in the 100 breaststroke and the 400-yard free relays. Senior co-captains Hermatz and Frost both competed in the 200 and 400-yard free relays as did Feamster, a senior. Erdmann, a sophomore, competed in the 200-yard free relay.

At the competition, all of the swimmers posted better finishing times than the times they posted to qualify for their events, according to Grueber.

The 200-yard free relay team of Hermatz, Frost, Feamster and Erdmann, posted a new varsity swim record with their time of 1:31.66, a record that has lasted since 1982.

At their regular meeting last week, Mayor Abdul Haidous and the city council honored the five athletes,

along with the rest of the swim team, for their outstanding performance.

Rockets softball falls to Farmington Harrison

The John Glenn High School varsity softball team had a rough outing in their second road game of the season when they came up short against the Farmington Hills Harrison Hawks. The Hawks swooped in for a 6-2 victory on Wednesday, April 7.

Glenn recorded five hits to carry in their two runs while Farmington registered six hits to equal their six runs.

Junior Megan Dean led the efforts for Westland's offense as she went 2-3 for a single and a double. On the defense, senior pitcher Dana Baran

served up six strikeouts and only had three walks.

The Rockets are 0-4 after two scrimmages and two scheduled games, according to coach Bill Duncan.

"We had a good performance against Harrison," he said. "A lot of things are coming together for us. We're improving."

The Rockets lost their season opener on the road against Redford union, 6-4. Their two scrimmages were against Taylor Truman, who won 12-0, and Livonia Franklin who put the game away, 9-4.

The girls won't play again until after spring break when they open at home against Livonia Churchill on Wednesday, April 21.

From page 12

04-146

5H. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with DDA Director/CDBG Coordinator, Maria Lambert and with the administration, and authorize HarleyEllis to complete the Pre-Design Phase and the Schematic Design Phase at a cost not to exceed \$36,300.00 with Community Development Block Grant Funds for the proposed Senior Center/recreation Administrative Offices.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-147

5I. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the Administration and approve the reappointment of Matthew Raftary, Ronald Nash, Randy Moffat, Michael Hofftnan and the appointment of Donald Morris and Beverly MeAnally to the Tax Increment Finance Authority, terms to expire November 30, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-148

5J. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with the Administration and approve the reappointment of Mary Cole Sawyer and William Newman and the appointment of Ray Khami to the Downtown Development Authority, terms to expire December 31, 2007.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-149

6A1. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Romak to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendments 03/04-32, 33 and 34 introduced at the meeting held March 22, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-150

6A2. Motion by Romak, supported by Prybyla to schedule two (2) workshops and one (1) public hearing on the proposed FY 04-05 Budget. The workshops scheduled for Monday, April 12 and 26, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. and the public hearing is scheduled for May 3, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-151

6A3. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Crova to schedule a study session for April 5, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, for the purpose of discussing first year costs and projected workflow for the electronic preparation of Council Packet.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-152

6A4. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to terminate the Purchase and Development Agreement dated December 17, 1999, as amended between the City of

Romulus and Highland Development Company L.L.C., and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute same.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-153

9. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Romak to issue a No-Fee Permit to the United Community Methodist Church Yard Sale, to be held May 13, through 15, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays -None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-154

11A1. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Romak to authorize payment of Warrant 04-06 with the removal of Fund 301, Beverly Road Construction in the amount of Six Hundred Eighty Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred Fifty Nine Dollars and Forty Cents, (\$688,959.40).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Crova.
Motion Carried.

04-155

11A2. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Crova to pay Warrant 04-06, Fund 301, Beverly Road Construction, in the amount of Sixty Six Thousand, One Hundred Eighty Two Dollars and Fifty Cents, (\$66,182.50).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Prybyla, Wadsworth.
Nays - Miller, Romak.
Motion Carried.

04-156

11B1. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending legal matters.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-157

11B2. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of legal staff and authorize the attorney to proceed as directed in the POAM Contract matter. Special Council Steven Schwartz is appointed and a contract shall be entered as discussed.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Linda R. Choate, CMC
Clerk

Publish: April 15, 2004

Northville Mustangs hold off Troy Athens, 3-2

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It didn't matter much to the Northville Mustangs' girls' soccer crew that Troy Athens had won four state championships in the past, along with numerous other honors.

What mattered is that they had beaten them in the past, they planned to do it again.

And they did.

The 'Stangs delivered a giant performance to outlast the Red Hawks 3-2 in their meeting on Wednesday, April 7. Freshman forward Danielle Toney led the way with all three of the team's goals. Sophomore forward Lauren Hill

recorded all three assists.

Northville came out fired up in the first half to take an early lead when Toney, off of a pass from Hill, faked out the Athens' goalie and scored from seven yards out, according to Northville Coach Ron Meteyer.

After that it turned into a physical game, he said. With 14:34 left in the first half, Hill was grappled to the ground by the goalie. The Troy goalie was given a yellow card and forced to sit out while Northville was awarded a penalty kick. Toney was given the opportunity. She feigned a kick to the left corner to fake the goalie out again and sent the ball flying through the open space where the goalie stood a

second beforehand, Meteyer said.

The goal put Northville up 2-0 to end the half.

The game remained physical as two other Northville players were carried off the field because of injuries and another incident sent assistant coach Iain MacDonald packing. He was given a red card for arguing over a call the referee didn't make. Troy's Blaire Guillian collided head-on with Hill and took her down hard, Meteyer said.

"I don't think she meant to do it," he said. "But there were other calls before that that appeared to be intentional but weren't called. The last one was enough to push Iain. At one point I had to restrain

him."

In the second half, Troy bounced back with a goal from Jenny McCallion at 32:46. She broke loose up the middle and fired a shot from 30 yards out to put it past Northville's sophomore goaltender Katie Weicksel and make it a 2-1 game.

Ten minutes later Hill raced down the right side and made a pass up to Toney who put it in for the third time to secure a 3-1 lead.

However, Troy continued their tough play and it paid off as Erin Mulligan knocked one in to cut into the lead 3-2. Mulligan intercepted a clearing attempt by Loren Tocconelli and fired a shot point-blank past Weicksel.

Weicksel and the defense held them off for the rest of the game, though.

"Lindsay Hill and Whitney Guenther had great games on defense," Meteyer said.

"(Weicksel) played her first big game and did a great job. She made three sensational saves in the first half and you could see the confidence of the team grow in leaps and bounds.

"We had to adjust a little bit," he added. "We played 19 players, which is quite a bit for a big game."

Northville will rest up during spring break and face the Walled Lake Western Warriors on the road on Wednesday, April 21.

Canton Chiefs split doubleheader with Ann Arbor Pioneer

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

After weeks of cancelled scrimmages, tournaments and a rescheduled home opener, the Canton Chieftettes finally hit the softball diamond for their season opener against the Ann Arbor Pioneers on Monday, April 5.

Canton walked away with some favorable results from the doubleheader against the No. 8 ranked team in Division I. Despite losing the early game 2-1, they rallied back in the second to carry an 11-7 victory.

In the first game, Canton played eight innings and only allowed two runs. Junior pitcher Molly Conlon threw for five innings to strike out eight batters and only allowed two hits, two runs and two walks, according to Canton coach Jim Arnold. Freshman pitcher Sarah Anthony started the first three innings and only allowed two hits and recorded two strikeouts, he said.

At bat for the Chiefs, catcher and third base player Heather Richardson went two-for-four at the plate with two singles.

The results were better in the later game when the offense stepped it up with an 11-7 victory in seven innings.

Richardson was 2-5 in the game but it was the heavy-hitters Melissa Cieniuch, who went 4-5 including a triple, and freshman shortstop Lorn Delapaz, who was a perfect 4-4 at the plate, including two triples. Conlon was 1-2 at bat but hit a home run in the sixth inning to help put the Pioneers away, 11-7.

Conlon also pitched five strikeouts in the final four innings and allowed six hits and

two runs. Freshman Stephanie Sadek started the first three innings and gave up five hits and one run.

"I was pretty pleased with the team in the first game," Arnold said. "Ann Arbor Pioneer is ranked and to play a 2-1 ball game this early is pretty good. I think both teams are going to be really good this year."

Next up, Canton will host Walled Lake Northern after spring break on Tuesday, April 20. Then, they will head to Northville on Friday, April 23 and participate in the Chelsea

Invitational on Saturday, April 24.

From there, the following week gets hectic with four games in five days.

The cancelled Ann Arbor Huron game is rescheduled for 4 p.m. on Monday, April 26 in Canton. They will have to test their skills against No. 7 ranked Walled Lake Western on Wednesday, April 28 and a road trip to Brighton was added to their schedule for Thursday, April 29. The team will finish out the month of April with a trip to Walled Lake Central on Friday, April 30.

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GM EMPLOYEE LEASE	P Windows, P Locks, Tilt, Cruise, AM/FM Stereo CD Cass., 3.4 V6, Auto OD, Stock #9393
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On guard!

Plymouth-Canton winter guard wins gold

The Plymouth Canton Winter Guard, consisting of students from Canton, Salem, and Plymouth High Schools, took first place gold in the Independent A Class of the Michigan Color Guard Circuit (MCGC) State Championships on Saturday, April 3, at Saginaw Valley State University.

The Guard's flawless performance, entitled "The State We're In," received a winning score of 88.25 and was a spectacular combination of music and dance using flags, rifles, and sabers.

Through plenty of hard work and dedication, this first-year team has had a great season - especially as 13 of its 20 members are first-year Guard and the team competes in a class that includes college-aged members. In addition to its first-place win on April 3, the Guard also took first in each of the three MCGC invitational outings in which it participated and third in the Winter Guard International Regional Competition in Chesterton, Indiana, in early March.

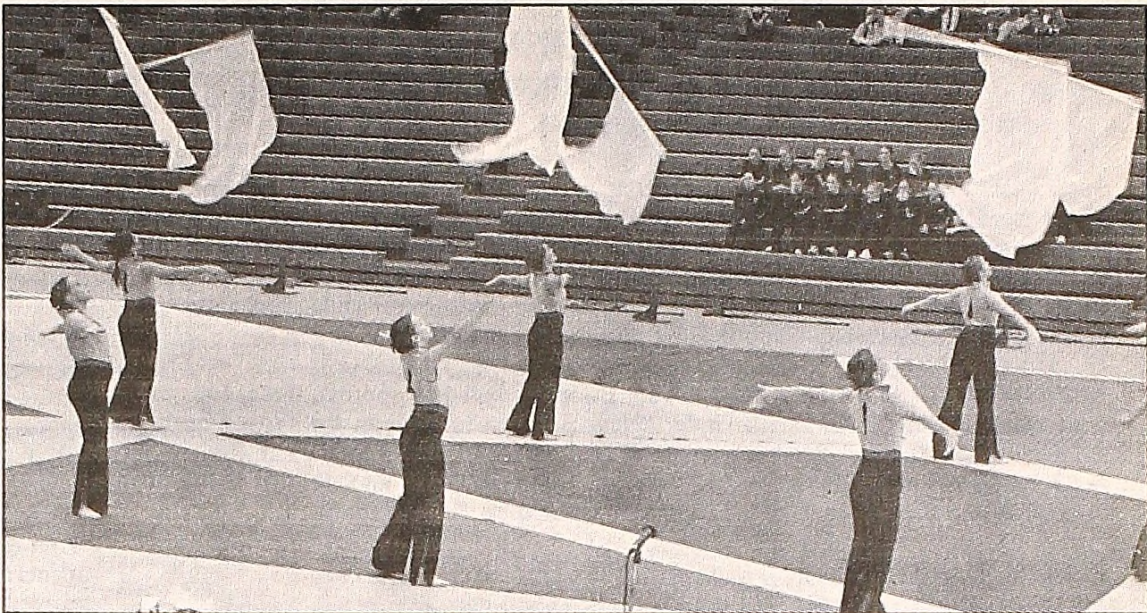
This young team has only two seniors: Captains Joy Shanaberger and Rachel Nelson. They each have four years of guard experience and received "Age-Out Certificates" during the

Championships, indicating they are graduating from their unit. Juniors are Lauren Berryman, Alyssa Cercon, Jennie Jansen, Danielle Palarchio, and Brittany Weiss.

Brittany received the "100 percent Club Member Certificate" for her dedication, motivation, and positive attitude. Kelly Armbruster, Lauren Blackley, Dawn Bomay, Jessica Eimers, Liz Jadcak, Natalie Sutherland, and Jenna Volstromer are sophomores. Freshmen include Sarah Cooper, Lyla Ellens, Deanna Koenig, Amanda Meggert-Pierce, Katie Mollenkamp, and Rosalyn Schloemer. Danielle and Jessica received MCGC \$150 Scholarships which will be applied toward their future participation fees.

The team is looking forward to the Fall when they will accompany the award-winning Plymouth Canton Educational Park Marching Band, which is under the direction of Marc Whitlock.

Head Coach Jennifer Leseth and her staff said anyone who will be a Canton, Salem, or Plymouth High School student in the fall can attend the color guard workshops and auditions from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on April 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, and 29 in the Plymouth High School band room.



The Plymouth Canton Winter Guard, consisting of students from Canton, Salem, and Plymouth high schools, perform at the Michigan Color Guard Circuit (MCGC) State Championships on Saturday, April 3, at Saginaw Valley State University. The team took first place.

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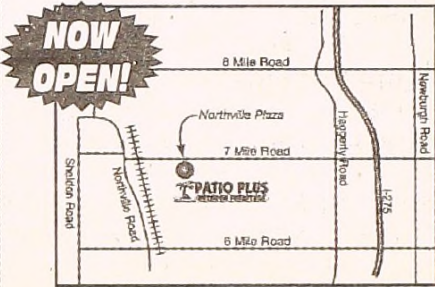
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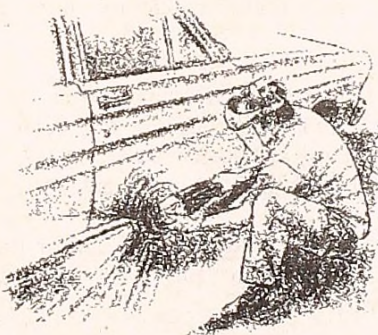
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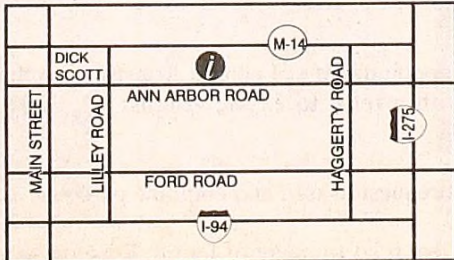
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 6, 2004

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Trustee Herman. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Recreation and Facilities Director Ross, Interim Public Safety Director Smolen, Water and Sewer Director Duha, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of seventeen (17).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda with the following amendment: Under "New Business" add Item # 8 "Consider approval of the contract for the Tyler Road Improvements, I-275 to Hannan Road, between Van Buren Township and Peter A. Basile & Sons and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract." Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of March 15, 2004 as presented. Carried.

Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2004 as amended with the following corrections under "New Business." On page 3, paragraph 2 to read "Payne moved, Hart seconded to allow Trustee Jahr to abstain from voting on "New Business" Item # 4 "Consider final plat approval for the proposed Rolan Meadows Residential Subdivision located on the south side of Tyler Road, west of Haggerty Road and immediately east of the Andover Farms Subdivision parcel number V125-83-054-99-0001-000." [Trustee Jahr's law firm represents interested parties.] Carried." On page 3, paragraph 5 should read "Hart moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2004-11 approving the appointments of Michael Dotson as the representative from Wayne County Community College District with term to expire August 12, 2006 and David Tyler as the representative from Wayne County with term to expire August 12, 2005 to the Local Development Finance Authority. Carried." Also amended for minor grammatical corrections. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Employee service awards were given to Michael Eggleton and Bradley Hine for five years of service and Joseph Strickland, Jeffery Gueli and Mark Buxton for ten years of service.

Supervisor King announced Clerk Payne has been accepted into the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Master Municipal Clerk Academy program.

A thank you email from City of Belleville Councilman Creamean in regard to the Belleville Lake Shoreline Management Workshop the Township recently hosted.

The township is in receipt of notification from the State of Michigan for approval of reimbursement by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the power outage incident of August 2004.

An email from a resident in regard to the fun time her family had at the Marshmallow Drop.

Supervisor King reviewed the results of February and March question posted on the township's website www.vanburen-mi.org. April's question is in two parts. The first part is "Are you satisfied with the recreational programs and services offered by Van Buren Township?" Secondly, "If the township was to make one facility improvement what would you suggest?"

Supervisor King read correspondence from the State of Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) in regard to a new program called MI Travel Counts. For more information contact MORPACE International at 800.566.6262, or MDOT at 517.241.1301 or visit the project website at www.michigan.gov/mitravelcounts.

Supervisor King stated House Bill 5168 reinstates the May 1st deadline for filing a principal residence exemption form with the Assessors Office [this form was formally known as the Homestead Property Affidavit form].

An email of thanks from a resident for the assistance given by the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department during a recent medical emergency.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the second reading for adoption of Ordinance 03-16-04(1) to amend the Township Zoning Ordinance, 06-02-92, as amended, to rezone portions of parcels of land known as V125-83-041-99-0001-714 and V125-83-041-99-0001-001 from M-1 (Light Industrial) to C-1 (General Business). Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Rochowiak, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Payne and King. Nays: None. Absent and excused: Herman. Carried.

*(A copy of Ordinance 03-16-04(1) follows the minutes. Copies may also be obtained in the Clerk's Office, Township Hall, 46425 Tyler Road during normal business hours.)

NEW BUSINESS: Rochowiak moved, Jahr seconded to approve the 2004 Lawn Maintenance Contract with Pioneer Landscaping and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the appointments to the Public Safety Committee of Ray Bailey with a term to expire July 30, 2004 and Leon Wright with a term to expire July 30, 2005 and to acknowledge Victor Franzoi and Charles Covington for their years of service. Carried.

Payne moved, Jahr seconded to approve the appointment of Leonard Armstrong to the Local Development Finance Authority with a term to expire August 12, 2007. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the request to split and combine parcels

V125-83-093-01-0068-002 (Westerly 39.94 feet road frontage of lot 68, Edison Lake

Estates Subdivision), V125-83-093-01-0069-000 (lot 69, Edison Lake Estates Subdivision) and V125-83-093-01-0070-000 (lot 70, Edison Lake Estates Subdivision) specifically noting items one through six of the Parcel Division Board's memorandum dated March 26, 2004: approval in no way changes zoning requirements for the proposed parcels; the cost of any and/or all utility improvements will be borne by the property owner(s); approval in no way implies or guarantees permits and/or approvals from federal, state, county or local agencies; this will include but not be limited to roadway access point(s); submission of a certified survey by a registered land surveyor for each of the requested parcel(s); payment of any fees and/or costs; and approval will be valid for six months. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Budd seconded to approve the Agreement between Wayne County and the Township for recreational improvements, authorize its execution, and direct Director Ross, his staff and the Recreation Committee to commence work on solidifying the project to be undertaken and make formal recommendations for a proposed project to the Board. Carried.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the professional services contract with Wade-Trim Associates, Inc. to provide professional engineering services for the improvements to the entrance and exit ramps at Ecorse and I-275 interchange at a cost not to exceed \$168,700 to be expensed from the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Fund and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

Payne moved, seconded Hart to approve the professional services contract with Tetra Tech MPS to provide professional services for improvements to the traffic signalization of Ecorse Road, east from I-275 to Hannan Road at a cost not to exceed \$35,000 to be expensed from the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) Fund and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

Rochowiak moved Hart to approve the contract for the Tyler Road Improvements, I-275 east to Hannan Road, between Van Buren Township and Peter A. Basile & Sons in the amount of \$579,538.84 [funding provided by the State] and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the contract. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the April 6, 2004 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the January and February 2004 Budgetary Reports received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Public Safety Department evaluation from consultants Kelly and Stone has been delayed by a month due to unforeseen circumstances experienced by one of the consultants.

On April 9th administrative offices at Township Hall will be closed in observance of Good Friday.

On April 24th a general auction of Township properties including items such as vehicles, bicycles, computers and desks will be held at Township Hall.

An Old Tire Recycling Day will be held free of charge on May 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. behind Township Hall for Van Buren Township residents to dispose of old tires in an environmentally friendly manner.

The Drive-In Dog Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Water and Sewer building located behind township hall. Also, dog licenses are now available at the Treasurer's Office.

The annual cemetery cleaning began on March 31, 2004 and will run through April 10, 2004 at the four township cemeteries. New items may be displayed beginning April 11, 2004. The four township cemeteries are Tyler, Otisville, Denton and Soop. For further information, contact the DPW Leader Jeff Fondaw at 734.699.8921 extension 228.

The Recreation Department announced the following events: A Breakout Culture Spring Break Camp will be held April 12th through April 16th from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. A Mother Son Hoedown will be held on Friday, May 14th. The Van Buren Recreation Department and the Belleville Parks Commission proudly present a Detroit Tigers baseball trip on Friday, June 27, 2004. For further information on classes and events contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

Director Smolen announced Michigan Arson Prevention Week is May 2 – 8, 2004 and reported various Michigan arson statics. He reminded residents to change the batteries in their smoke detectors and emergency radios.

The Annual Scholarship Art Show will be held on Saturday, May 1st and Sunday, May 2nd at Belleville High School and a fundraising Dessert Gala will be held on Friday, April 30th.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A resident asked if there would be any additional cost to the Township due to the delay of the Public Safety Evaluation. Supervisor King stated there will be no additional cost.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Payne seconded to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. Carried.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: April 15, 2004

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- 02. In Memoriam
- 03. Cards of Thanks
- 04. Monuments
& w/ Cemetery Plots
- 05. Personals
- 06. Legal Notices
- 07. Attorneys
- 08. Entertainment
- 09. Lost & Found
- 10. Coming Events
- 31. Help Wanted Sales

- 32. Help Wanted
- 33. Child Care
- 34. Specialized Services
- 35. Situations Wanted
- 40. Business Opportunity
- 42. Pawn Shops
- 43. Money to Loan
- 44. Music Lessons
- 45. Art Lessons
- 46. Private Instruction
- 47. Schools
- 50. Pets & Supplies

- 54. Poultry - Livestock
- 55. Farm Equipment/Supplies
- 56. Animal Feed
- 57. Antiques
- 58. Flea Markets
- 59. Auctions
- 60. Misc. Sales
- 61. Misc. Items
- 62. Building Supplies
- 63. Business with Office & Equipment
- 64. Lawn & Garden Supplies

- 65. Tree Service
- 66. Fuel
- 67. Garden Plant / Supplies
- 68. Garden / Produce
- 70. Christmas Trees
- 72. Machinery Tools
- 73. Musical Merchandise
- 74. Sporting Goods
- 75. Boats / Accessories
- 76. Snowmobiles
- 77. Recreation Vehicles
- 78. Aircraft

- 82. Wanted to Buy
- 87. Room for Rent
- 88. Duplexes for Rent
- 89. Apartments for Rent
- 90. Condos for Rent
- 92. Business Places for Rent
- 93. Banquet Halls
- 94. Farm Land for Rent
- 95. Garages for Rent
- 97. Cottages for Rent
- 98. Mobile Homes for Rent
- 99. Mobile Home Lots for Rent

- 100. Will Share
- 101. Wanted to Rent
- 102. Storage
- 103. Business with Property
- 104. Farms with Acreage
- 105. Mobile Homes for Sale
- 106. Houses for Sale
- 107. Condos for Sale
- 108. Lake with Resort
- 109. Income with Property
- 110. Lots for Sale
- 111. Out of State Property

- 112. Commercial Lease
- 113. Real Estate Wanted
- 114. Auto Accessories
- 115. Autos for Sale
- 116. Antique & Classic Cars
- 117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
- 118. Handicapped Vehicles
- 119. Auto Repairs
- 120. Motorcycles
- 121. Autos Wanted

32. Help Wanted

OWNER OPERATORS with semi and 52 foot step deck, ramps, center rail and 9000 lb winch. Haul and Tow Trucks to haul one trailer and pull one. Sign on bonus, competitive rates, good backhaul average. Call 1-800-695-9743 or check us out at qualitydriveaway.com.

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GET TRAINED! Stop Look & Drive! CDL in 16 days. Good, Bad, No Credit, Job Placement Assistance. Get Hooked up! Call 800-398-9908.

DRIVERS - Ask about Dedicated or Regional in your area! \$2500 Experienced Driver Sign-On Bonus. CDL Training available. Van, Flatbed & Autohaul openings! 1-800-231-5209

DRIVERS: COMPANY DRIVERS & Owner Operators...Serious Miles Each Week! Weekly Hometime/Assigned Walk-In Condos/No East Coast! (6 Months Class A CDL). Call Now! Phone Applications Approved in 30 Minutes! 877-687-5627.

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EXPERIENCED loan officers for Local Company. Call 734-447-0071

Hair Salon in Belleville is looking for a Hair Stylist, and person for General Help. Ans Phones, etc. Apply in Person. Ask for Louise or Lois. Perfect Image Hair Salon. 491 Sumpter Rd. Belleville, MI 48111 734-697-0065

PROPERTY MANAGER Equity Residential has a career opportunity for a Property Manager at a small property in the Westland area.

Experience in Property Management is required (min. two yrs residential or commercial prop. mgmt. experience, including supervisory responsibilities, is preferred), along with strong leasing skills, budgeting/financial reporting, marketing and customer service skills.

We offer a competitive salary as well as a comprehensive benefit package including medical/dental/vision coverage, stock purchase and 401 (k) plan. On-site living available.

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34. Specialized Services

ARE YOU IN NEED OF A BABY SITTER? Look no further. Early drop off. Reasonable rates. Call Tammy at 734-326-5822

40. Business Opportunity

1.800.VENDING 90 Machines - \$9,120 The Best Locations 1-800-836-3463 24/Hrs.

ARE YOU MAKING \$1,000 per week? All cash vending routes with prime locations available now! Under \$9,000 investment required. Call Toll Free (24-7) 800-637-7444

Call 734-467-1900 to place your classified ad.

50. Pets & Supplies

Puppies For Sale Great Dane Puppies AKC. Black, Merle, Harlequin, Male and female. Call 734-331-3313

59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 04-22-04, at 11:00 am, and continuing from day to day, until all goods are sold or otherwise disposed of at U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Rd, Romulus, MI 48174 The undersigned, U-Store-It 401 will sell at Public Sale by competitive bidding, the personal property heretofore stored with the undersigned by:

D-95= Damon Mallory Mathews. 15083 Minock, Detroit, MI 48223 = 14 boxes, 1 equalizer, 5 clothing, 2 speakers. E-57= Debra Latham James. 28560 Parkwood, Inkster, MI 48141 = 2 bed, box spring, 1 chair, folding. 1 sofa, 1 entertainment center, 1 bed, frame, 1 chair, upholstered. 1 Table, end. 2 bed, mattress. 1 dresser.

1 living room set. D-34= Lori R. Swonder 6457 Birch, Taylor, MI 48180= 12 books, 1 table, dining. 1 entertainment center. 1 desk, 1 guitar. 1 microwave oven. 1 drum Table.

C-17= Rodney Lewis Adams 9371 Karen st. Romulus, MI 48174= 2 bicycle, 10 kid toys. U-STOR-IT 313-295-9050

On April 24, 2004, the Van Buren Township Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded and abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin at 10:00am, at J&T Towing and Storage, 237 Industrial Dr. Belleville MI, County of Wayne, where the following will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

1991 CHEVORLET P/U 1GCCT19Z6M0189691 44-307-04
1986 PLYMOUTH 4D 1P3BP36D0GF317994 44-325-04
1996 CHEVORLET 2D 2G1WW12M6T9241613 44-327-04
1986 FORD VAN 1FBHE21H0GHC37642 44-330-04
1991 GMC P/U 2GDHG31K2M4502285 44-344-04
1986 CHEVORLET SW 1G8CT18R6G8137057 44-351-04
1977 OLDSMOBILE 4D 3N69L7M321924 44-358-04
1986 CHEVORLET 4D 2G1AW19X2G1200782 44-372-04
1987 MAZDA 4D JM1BF222XH0556216 44-385-04
2000 ESCORT TL 405120BA8YM000239 44-394-04

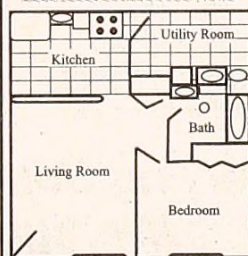
61. Misc. Items

BUYING! BUYING! BUYING!

We want to buy your coins, watches, and jewelry. Also dishes, glassware, figurines sterling silver, charm bracelets, toys, autographs and sports memorabilia! Call Lawrence Grey **313-543-2515**

89. Apts. for rent

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89. Apartments For Rent



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105. Mobile Homes For Sale

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57. Antiques

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Worship 11:00 A.M.

Pastor C.L. Nesbitt

Everyone Is Welcome To Come

Worship DIRECTORY

59. Auctions**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC AUCTION**

On April 20, 2004 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1979 Dodge Motor Home White
F44CT9V702845
1997 Pontiac Grand Prix 4 Door- White
1G2WP5217VF203887
1990 Cadillac 4 Door- White
1G6CB5334L4203189
1985 Volvo 244 4 Door- Brown
YV1AX8841F1143719
1993 Pontiac Sunbird 2 Door- Black
1G2JC1479P7516661
1991 Ford Mustang 2 Door- White
1FACP41M8MF127959
1988 Dodge Mini-Van Silver
2B7FK1335JR671851
1989 Pontiac 6000 4 Door- Brown
1G2AF51W2K6279281
1995 Ford Taurus 4 Door- Green
1FALP52U1SG117642

The second auction will begin promptly at 10:30 am at T & G Towing, 33052 Ford Rd. Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1995 Suzuki Sidekick Sta-Wagon- Green
2S3TC02C8S6411170

The Third auction will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1970 Trailer Black NO Vin
1985 Cadillac Seville 4 Door- Black
1G6KS6981FE819919
1999 Ford Escort 4 Door- Red
1FAFP13PXXW264845
1992 Chevy Astro St-Wagon- Gray
1GNDM19Z5NB122904
1990 Cadillac Fleetwood 4 Door- Blue
1G6CB5339L4251528

1987 Chevy Blazer Wagon- Black
1GNCT18R7H0139932
1985 Jaguar XJS 2 Door- Plum
SAJNV5841FC117607
1989 Pontiac 6000 4 Door- Red
1G2AF51W8K6211292
1986 Chevy Celebrity 4 Door- Brown
1G1AW35X3G6161257
1995 Chrysler Concord 4 Door- Burgandy
2C3HD56T6SH611871
1987 Plymouth Voyager ST-Wagon- Gray
2P4FH4135HR336291
1983 Mercury Cougar 2 Door- White
1MEBP92F9DH672946
1988 Ford Tempo 4 Door- White
1FAPP36XXJK196170
1989 Dodge Ram Van- Gray-Burgandy
2B6HB21Y2KK347154
1989 Honda Accord 2 Door- Blue
1HGCA6247KA056755
1979 Ford Fairmont 2 Door- Blue
9E93T211842
1994 Dodge Intrepid 4 Door- Black
1B3HD56TORF317813

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Westland-Mini-Storage will be holding an Auction for the following units on April 24, 2004 at 11:00 am.
1600 S. Newburgh Rd. Westland, MI. 734-729-1710
Unit 300- Gwendolyn Hill= T.V. Strollers, Many boxed kids walker, table, clothes, shelving.
Unit 419- Darlene Mathihsen= Steamer chest, multiple boxes, speakers.
Unit 415- Jay D. Snyder= Floor guys wood flooring, carpet, other flooring products.
Unit 111- Kimberly Chmiel= Fishing, life jackets, boxes Misc clothes, hunting, Camo kids games.
Unit 625- Barbara Johnson= kids misc. furniture, Cds, T.V., Baby bed, misc boxes.
Unit 735- Mary Steele= Couch, furniture, glass tops, boxes, books, cds, and kids odds and ends.

60. Misc. Sales

SAWMILLS -\$2,695.00 - LumberMate-2000 & LumberLite-24. Norwood Industries also manufactures utility ATV attachments, log skidders, portable board edgers and forestry equipment.
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ESTATE SALE
3953 NIAGARA. West of Merriman, South of Mich Ave. April 16,17,18. 9:00-5:00
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65. Tree Service

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77. R.V.'s

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87. Rooms For Rent

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88. Duplexes For Rent

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89. Apartments For Rent

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96. Houses For Rent

CANTON 3 bed, garage, all appliances. \$800
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Inkster 2 bedroom House, Sec 8 OK, Rent with option to buy. \$650 mo. Call 734-323-9000

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106. Houses For Sale

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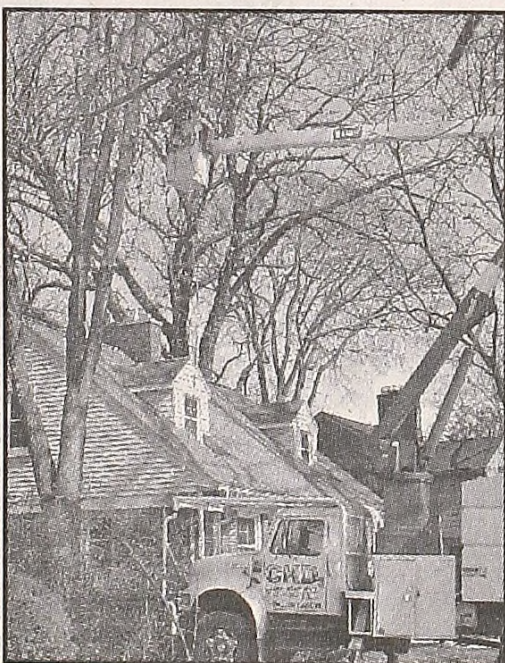


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115. Autos For Sale

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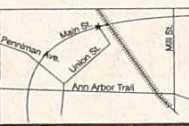
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